

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sensor in which function members including a light source for irradiating an object to be read with light, a sensor for receiving light
5 reflected by the object to be read, and an imaging element for forming an image of the reflected light on a light-receiving portion of the sensor are attached to and supported by a support member to have a predetermined positional relationship,
10 wherein the support member is formed to have a hollow shape.
2. The sensor according to claim 1, wherein the support member is formed to have the hollow shape except for storage spaces for the function members.
- 15 3. The sensor according to claim 1, wherein the support member is formed to have the hollow shape along a longitudinal direction thereof.
4. The sensor according to claim 3, wherein two side portions of the support member are formed to have a
20 hollow shape, and are coupled at end portions in the longitudinal direction of the support member.
5. The sensor according to claim 1, wherein no openings are formed on two outer surfaces of the support member.
- 25 6. The sensor according to claim 1, wherein the support member is formed to have the hollow shape by gas assist molding.

7. The sensor according to claim 6, wherein a gas injection hole and resin injection hole in the gas assist molding are identical to each other.
8. The sensor according to claim 6, wherein a gas exhaust hole and resin exhaust hole in the gas assist molding are identical to each other.
9. The sensor according to claim 6, wherein gas and resin injection holes, and gas and resin exhaust holes in the gas assist molding are respectively formed on opposing surfaces of the support member.
10. An image processing apparatus for reading and processing image information from an object to be read using an image sensor according to claim 1.
11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a flatbed type image sensor unit is used.
12. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a sheet-feeder type image sensor unit is used.
13. The apparatus according to claim 10, comprising driving means for changing a relative position between the image sensor and the object to be read.
14. An information processing system comprising an image processing apparatus according to claim 10, and an external information processing apparatus for controlling the image processing apparatus.